



TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
21 SOUTH MAIN STREET
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01569
508-278-8600, x 2013

MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2011

SEP 21 '11 AM 10:38

(12)

Please note some items may have been taken out of agenda order.

Minutes of the Uxbridge Conservation Commission regular meeting held on **Monday, August 15, 2011**, at 7:00 P.M. in the Lower Town Hall room, Uxbridge Town Hall, 21 South Main Street, Uxbridge, MA:

Conservation Commission Board Members Present: Russell Holden, Larry Lench, Dave Lewcon and Michael Potaski

Conservation Commission Board Members Absent: Tracy Tibedo

It being 7:00 pm, the meeting being properly posted, duly called and a quorum being present, Chairman Holden called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearings:

DEP #312-928, NOI, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC - off River Rd (Map 45, Parcel 1487) – The project proposed is to install a ground bed (anodes and cables) to provide the additional cathodic protection required along a portion of the existing natural gas mainline pipeline. Ms. Kelly Kippenberger, Wetland Scientist with TRC Solutions was present and spoke on behalf of the applicant. A site walk was conducted on August 10th with Commissioner Holden and Commissioner Tibedo. Ms. Kippenberger noted that erosion control with hay bales will be placed at the site. Following discussion, **MOTION** by Commissioner Holden to close the Public Hearing for **DEP #312-928, NOI, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC off River Road** and to issue a standard Order of Conditions with three (3) Special Conditions including: 1) Clean equipment to be placed on the property to prevent spread of invasive species. 2) Wetland area to be excavated first. 3) Weather is to be monitored prior to construction to help avoid working on stream crossing when channel is filled with water. Seconded by Commissioner Lewcon, the motion carried unanimously.

DEP #312-929, NOI, Constellation Solar Net Metering, LLC – 0, 67 & 71 Commerce Dr. (Map 40, Parcels 2954, 2595 & 2863) – The proposed project involves construction of a 2.0 Megawatt AC rated solar electrical generating facility in a former gravel pit. Mr. Stephen O'Connell with Andrews Survey & Engineering, Mr. David Fenton with DG Power and Mr. Caleb Saunders with Constellation Solar Net Metering, LLC were all present. Mr. O'Connell noted that a Special Permit decision has been received from the Uxbridge Planning Board. Mr. O'Connell submitted a document titled "Vegetation & Maintenance Plan for 67 Commerce Drive, Uxbridge 2.0 MWac Solar Facility" dated August 15, 2011. The plan has been developed with the intention of presenting no impact to the designated wetlands area onsite and to minimize the impact to the buffer zone. In order to ensure proper photovoltaic operation, the solar system layout has been designed to avoid tree shade during high solar output hours (9am to 3pm). Vegetation maintenance surrounding the photovoltaic solar facility is required to avoid shade being cast during these critical hours, on the solar installation. This document presented to the Commission addresses possible actions of disturbance within the wetlands buffer and details the minimal to no impact approach that the applicant will take in regards to each concern. Mr. Arthur Allen with EcoTec, Inc. came forward to discuss the protocol pertaining to propose tree removal and restoration plantings within an existing wooded buffer zone. Trees within the outer buffer zone will be cut in order to prevent shading of the solar panels which are proposed in the adjacent disturbed area. Restoration plantings with native, small-stature trees are proposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearings ~ none

Violations/Potential Violations ~ none

MINUTES. MOTION by Commissioner Lench to approve the Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes dated August 1, 2011. Seconded by Commissioner Lewcon, the motion carried 3-0-1.

Other:

Water Metering at Pout Pond – The Commission discussed the invoice and agreed it must be paid. The Commission discussed a possibility of having a Porta-John system placed at the pond; however this would deflect from a comfortable atmosphere.

Pout Pond/Legg Farm – Discussions and areas of concerns included the recent E.Coli water testing done at Pout Pond still remain at 10.0 CFU, continued success with the seasonal work camper, abandoned paddle boat at pond will be sold if not retrieved, septic systems have been addressed, extensive erosion on lawn may need a berm (future Request for Determination of Applicability application will be needed), research of dry camping, possible conservation restriction for the pond, revenue possibilities at Pout Pond, additional security and fencing to be placed on the property. Additional discussions included a possible gravel removal operation in the ball field at Pout Pond. Appears miscommunication of what can occur on the property and who might have governance over the property at Pout Pond. Following discussion, **MOTION** by Commissioner Lewcon to place this inquiry on the next Conservation Commission agenda on September 6, 2011 for discussion. Seconded by Commissioner Potaski, the motion carried unanimously.

Stormwater Bylaw: Commissioner Potaski informed the Commission that he is on the committee.

Route 122, Bridge Construction: The Commission received email notification on August 11th from Ms. Elizabeth Scotten-Finn with the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Massachusetts. Ms. Finn conducted a water sampling along the Blackstone River, and one of the sites that her team visits monthly is a bridge construction site in the Town of Uxbridge. During the recent storm events, the road runoff has increased for obvious reasons. At this site, Ms. Michelle Kinney with the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Massachusetts informed Ms. Scotten-Finn that the erosion control measures were no longer in place and that sediment was washing into the river at an alarming rate. Several pictures were taken and have been provided to the Commissioners. The Commission suggested a letter be sent to the applicant or owner of the property to advise erosion control needs to be addressed.

MOTION by Commissioner Potaski to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner Lench, the motion carried unanimously.